

Sep. 7, 2007, 2:56PM 4123925650

No. 9149 P. 10

Appl. No. 10/618,996

Response dated: September 7, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

None.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-7 were rejected and claims 8-20 were allowed. Applicant has cancelled claim 1-7, leaving claims 8-20 pending.

Claim 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Drawings.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) on the grounds that "the encoding step post separation of claim 1 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)."

Applicant does not agree with the rejection. However, claim 1 has been canceled to provide for prompt allowance of the applicant. As a result, Applicant submits that the objection to the drawings are moot in light of the canceled claims.

35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on the grounds that claims 1-7 fail to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant does not agree with the rejection. However, claims 1-7 have been canceled to provide for prompt allowance of the applicant. As a result, Applicant submits that this rejection is moot in light of the canceled claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Spanke (U.S. Patent No. 5,572,350). Applicant does not agree with the rejection. However, claims 1-6 have been canceled to provide for prompt allowance of the applicant. As a result, Applicant submits that this rejection is moot in light of the canceled claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spanke (U.S. Patent No. 5,572,350) in view of Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,149,432). Applicant does not agree with the rejection. However, claim 7 has been canceled to provide for prompt allowance of the applicant. As a result, Applicant submits that this rejection is moot in light of the canceled claims.

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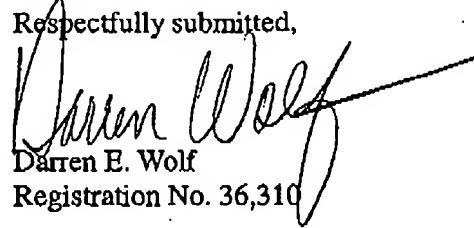
Allowable Subject Matter.

The Action states that claims 8-20 are allowed. The other claims, claims 1-7, have been canceled. Therefore, Applicant submits that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Additional Fees.

Applicant is attaching hereto a Petition for extension of time along with authorization to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account. In the event additional fees are due with this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit such fees from Charge Account Number 50-3198, in the name of Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote.

Respectfully submitted,


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